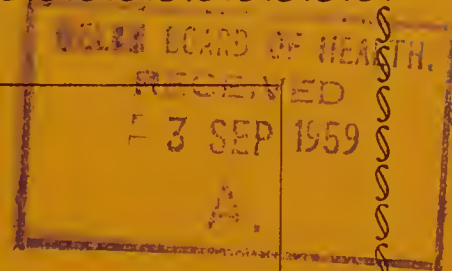


M/4



**Borough of Abergavenny**



**Medical Officer**

of

**Health's Report**

**1958**



**S. M. R. HARVEY, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.**



# Annual Report

## 1958

---

Mr Mayor and Gentlemen,

Public Health Services were first introduced for the purpose of disease prevention, with particular reference to the group of infectious diseases responsible for such a high annual mortality in this country. The success of these services is illustrated by the remarkable decline in both morbidity and mortality. In addition to advances in methods of treatment--immunisation and provision of pure water supplies, adequate sanitation and decent housing have greatly diminished the old hazards. As a result, emphasis is now placed, not only on prevention but also on the promotion of positive health.

The birth-rate in Abergavenny has reached a new high level, and the infant mortality rate is appreciably lower than in 1957. Furthermore, we are aware that children not only survive today but are able to enjoy better health. Record attendances have been achieved at the Infant Welfare Clinic (100 per clinic in 1958) and it is true that these infants and toddlers are healthier than ever before. Parents are more and more aware of the values of prevention as seen by the numbers of children vaccinated Small Pox and immunised against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

### Vaccinations against Small Pox

Numbers Vaccinated.

Age Groups	In 1952	In 1953	In 1954	In 1955	In 1956	In 1957	In 1958
Under 1 year ...	19	36	15	35	57	64	71
1 - 4 years ...	8	19	4	31	37	22	16
5 - 14 years ...	—	2	3	9	4	9	12
15 years plus ...	12	24	9	1	25	28	17
Totals	39	81	31	76	123	123	116

## Immunisations against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

Numbers Immunised.

Age Groups	In 1952	In 1953	In 1954	In 1955	In 1956	In 1957	In 1958
Under 5 years	44	93	64	81	141	109	118 Diph. 115 WhC
5 - 14 years	6	25	26	307	109	6	210 Diph. 3 WhC
Totals	50	118	90	388	250	115	446

Poliomyelitis vaccination, although looked upon with some degree of suspicion initially, has now been accepted as a worthwhile measure, and a large percentage of the population in Abergavenny, under the age of 27 years, has now received at least two injections of this vaccine.

Tuberculin testing is also undertaken at the clinic and accepted as a routine procedure. Those young children who are positive reactors to this latter test are referred to the Chest Clinic. Health education in the form of individual teaching and small discussion groups, plays an important role in all aspects of clinic work.

Most of these young children become the healthy school children of Abergavenny. While at school, health is promoted by routine and special medical examinations, immunisations, tuberculin testing with B.C.G. vaccination where necessary. Special attention is given to the handicapped child. Health Education may still be in its infancy, but its importance in the maintenance and promotion of the physical and mental well-being of today's child and tomorrow's adult is now being recognised.

The extent to which illness in adult life is affected by events in childhood cannot be estimated at present, but undoubtedly, man is affected by his environment at all stages. In order to promote health, it is necessary to study the family as a whole in relation to its physical and social environment. Morbidity and mortality generally have reached remarkably low limits due to improvements in the physical environment. Without efficient water and sewerage

schemes we would still be plagued by widespread epidemics of typhoid fever and cholera etc. In Abergavenny, constant supervision ensure a pure water supply to meet the town's needs. Progress has been made towards the provision of a modern sewage disposal works. More houses have been built to help meet the requirements of those still on the housing list. Some of the unfit houses have been demolished. The initial steps for the clearance and re-development of the Tudor Street area have been accomplished and the people from this area have been satisfactorily rehoused.

Abergavenny is fortunate in that there are comparatively few unemployed. Employment, together with improved housing, better education and national insurance benefits have improved nutritional standards generally. The promotion of health, as a result of all these factors as well as from advances in medicine, is reflected in the overall low death rate. Although the death rate is somewhat higher than in 1957, the deaths have been, in the main, in the age group 65 years and over.

Many of the diseases which occur in the elderly are inevitably associated with the degenerative processes of age. Although some of them cannot be wholly prevented or cured, many of them can be relieved or postponed by simple health measures. A deaf-aid may be the answer to some loss of hearing, a new pair of glasses to improve the vision and trained chiropody to soothe those aching feet.

We all wish to enjoy a healthy and happy retirement, but in order to achieve this, there must be preparation and forethought. To promote health at any age, it is necessary to keep both mind and body active, and especially so when the man or woman becomes an old age pensioner. On retiring from years of full employment it is essential that each day is filled according to one's capacity. Hobbies started years ago can now be developed and new interests fostered. Inactivity and boredom are to be avoided like the plague. Loneliness too often accompanies old age so one should cultivate a wide circle of friends and indulge in a variety of entertainments. Darby and Joan clubs provide much happiness to many of the elderly throughout

the country. Proper use of leisure in younger days will now bear fruit. Reading and letter writing should be continued. Economic security alone does not provide all the answers to the problems associated with old age. These social activities should be encouraged by all concerned with the health and welfare of the elderly. Although the need for exercise is reduced, physical activity must not be neglected. Continued mobility keeps the joints flexible and circulation adequate. An adequate mixed diet is of prime importance. Minor forms of malnutrition and anaemia are commonly found in old age, especially among those living alone, and these are essentially preventable. Too often we find that the diet of the elderly consists mainly of cups of tea and the bun or a sandwich. An excess of starchy foods results in obesity which, as we all know, strains the heart. Coronary Thrombosis is gaining prevalence and among the multiplicity of factors associated with this disease are to be found excessive weight, too much dietary fat and low physical activity. We cannot entirely avoid mild degenerative arthritic changes of the joints but much can be done to minimise them by controlling increase of weight and maintaining regular exercise.

The increasing incidence of lung cancer in this country and its association with smoking and air pollution is "news." But, chronic bronchitis with its troublesome cough, phlegm and shortness of breath can also be relieved by cutting down our cigarettes and, where possible, by living in a clean atmosphere, e.g. Abergavenny. Accidents, also, are common accompaniments of old age. But many of these are preventable. Stairs can be avoided by the provision of more bungalows and ground floor flats. Baths can be fitted with hand-rails and fires with guards. Much can be done by common sense and careful planning.

Most old people naturally prefer to live in their own homes but there comes a time when outside help is inevitable. Other members of the family can, and do, provide this help in many cases, but where this is not forthcoming, the various local authority and voluntary services are available (home helps, District Nurses, Meals on Wheels, etc.) More hospital beds are still required to meet the



needs of the elderly sick, and with the increasing numbers of those alone and no longer able to fend for themselves, there is a continuous growth in the waiting list for admission to the County establishments for the aged.

As Lord Adrian said at the centenary celebrations of the Society of Medical Officers of Health in 1956, "the clinician is fortunate in saving occasional lives but the public health services preserve the lives and may, in time, preserve the sanity of millions."

# VITAL STATISTICS

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Area in Acres ...	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398
Population (Est.)	8909	9058	9070	9140	8970	8910	8980	9020
Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Book) ...	2594	2783	2765	2796	2808	2937	2933	2922
Rateable Value	56831	58733	60191	60673	61820	98744	93147	94194
ld. Rate ...	208	222	230	234	234	235	357	363

1958	Total	M.	F.	1958	Borough	County	E.&W.
<b>Live Births.</b>							

Legitimate	164	79	85	Birthrate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	18.96	17.04	16.4
Illegitimate	7	2	5				
Total	171	81	90				
Comparability Factor	1.00	Adjusted Birthrate		18.96	× 1.00 = 1896		

## Still Births,

Legitimate	2	2	0	Rate per 1000 total (Live & Still Births) Births ...	17.2	21.6
Illegitimate	1	0	1			
Total	3	2	1			
				Rate 1000 pop. ...	0.33	0.49

## Deaths.

Deaths.							
All causes	139	72	67	Death rate per 1000 estimated resident population ...	15.4	11.73	11.7
Comparability Factor	0.97			Adjusted Death rate	$15.4 \times 0.97 = 14.9$		

## Deaths from

### Cancer—

All Ages	21	8	13
----------	----	---	----

### Deaths from

Lung Cancer	0	0	0
-------------	---	---	---

Deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0		
Maternity Mortality Rate (Rate per 1000 births)	0	0.35	

Infant Mortality.	Cause of Death	Number of deaths.	
		Male	Female
Pneumonia (all forms) ...		1	1
Congenital Malformations ..		1	1
Gastritis ...		—	1
Atelectasis ...		1	—
Prematurity ...		1	1
		—	—
Total		4	4



## Deaths of Children under 1 year of age in Age Groups.

Age Group	Number of Deaths	
Under 1 week	...	4
1 - 3 weeks	...	0
1 - 2 months	...	2
3 - 5 months	..	0
6 - 8 months	...	1
9 - 12 months	...	1
Total	..	<u>8</u>

*Borough County E.&W.*

## Infant Mortality Rate

(Rate per 1,000 Live Births)

... 46.78 25.81 22.5

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Live Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>
1931	8490 (Estimated)	137	119	16.10	14.01
	8608 (Census)				
1938	7925 (New Borough)	115	108	14.50	13.6
1939	7832	118	144	15.10	18.38
1940	8407	122	149	14.50	17.7
1941	8769	130	135	14.60	15.39
1942	8468	134	113	18.80	13.34
1943	8174	127	122	15.56	14.68
1944	7931	139	104	17.50	13.11
1945	8275	141	120	17.0	14.5
1946	8439	147	110	17.5	13.03
1947	8427	152	115	18.0	13.64
1948	8532	146	138	17.1	16.17
1949	8597	134	94	15.6	10.9
1950	8534	130	145	14.4	16.99
1951	8904	161	157	18.1	17.63
1952	9053	154	108	17.0	11.9
1953	9070	140	93	15.4	10.26
1954	9140	143	100	15.6	10.94
1955	8970	128	106	14.3	11.8
1956	8910	143	124	16.05	13.9
1957	8980	131	112	14.59	12.49
1958	9020	171	139	18.96	15.4

## Causes of Death (1958)

Cause	Male	Female
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach ...	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm Lung or Bronchus ...	3	0
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus ...	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast ...	0	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	3	8
Vascular Lesions of nervous system ...	5	8
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	18	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	5	1
Other Heart Disease ...	14	14
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	6	4
Influenza ...	0	0
Pneumonia ...	1	2
Bronchitis ...	3	0
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	0	1
Nephritis ...	0	1
Congenital Malformations ...	2	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6	9
Accidents ...	1	3
Suicide ...	1	1
Totals ...	<u>72</u>	<u>67</u>

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever ...	During the year	6 cases were notified
Whooping Cough ...	do.	7 do.
Measles ...	do.	54 do.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	do.	1 case was notified
Infantile Paralysis ...	do.	No cases were notified
Erysipelas ...	do.	do.
Diphtheria ...	do.	do.
Dysentery ...	do.	do.
Encephalitis ...	do.	do.
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	do.	do.
Salmonella Typhimurium ...	do.	do.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Notified :	Pulmonary	M.3	F.4	Non-Pulmonary	M.0	F.0
Deaths :	do.	M.0	F.0	do.	M.0.	F.0

## Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

(Classified according to sex and age groups).

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Sex</i>		<i>Age</i> 0-4	<i>Age</i> 5-9	<i>Age</i> 10-14	<i>Age</i> 15-24	<i>Age</i> 25 plus	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet	Male	...	1	2	...	...	...	3
Fever	Female	..	1	1	1	...	...	3
Meningococcal	Male	..	...	...	...	...	...	.
Infection	Female	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Measles	Male	11	16	3	...	1	31	
	Female	...	8	15	...	...	23	
Whooping	Male	...	3	1	...	...	4	
Cough	Female	...	2	1	...	...	3	
Enteric Fever	Male	..	...	...	...	...	...	
	Female	..	...	...	...	...	...	
Infantile	Male	...	...	...	..	...	..	
Paralysis	Female	..	...	...	..	...	..	
Dysentery	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Erysipelas	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	..	
Encephalitis	Male	...	...	...	...	..	..	
	Female	...	...	...	..	..	..	
Acute Primary	Male	...	...	...	..	..	...	
Pneumonia	Female	...	...	...	...	..	..	
Salmonella	Male	...	...	...	..	...	...	
Typhimurium	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	

# Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1958.

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
1 - 4 years	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..
5 - 9 years	1	1	...	...	...	..	...	..
10 - 14 years	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..
15 - 19 years	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 - 29 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
30 - 39 years	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
40 - 49 years	...	1	..	...	...	..	...	..
50 - 59 years	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
60 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...

Yours faithfully,

S. M. R. HARVEY, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The Town is supplied with water derived from springs situated in the Llwyndu Mountain and collected in a covered holding reservoir. These 13 springs called the Lodge and Llwyndu Springs produce an average of 430,000 gallons a day and when necessary a further supply is drawn from the Kibby stream. An emergency supplementary supply of up to 100,000 gallons per day is available from an artesian well or "borehole" from which the water is drawn by means of a vertical electric pump.

The adequacy of the water supply is further assured by an arrangement with the Newport Corporation to draw water from their main which skirts the town at Llanfoist.

From the Borough Engineer's reports it appears that the consumption of water has remained fairly constant during the year, fluctuating between 470,000 gallons per day in the early part of the year to 500,000 in the last month, with an average daily consumption of 485,000 gallons per day. With the exception of a short period during which time a short length of additional main was laid to alleviate a low pressure area, no water was taken from the Newport Corporation, nor was it found necessary to resort to the "bore-hole" pump except to run it at intervals to maintain mechanical efficiency.

The quality of the water was consistently high, routine checks on the chlorine treatment being carried out by the water-works attendant. Three samples taken by this office during the year for bacteriological examination proved satisfactory, the free chlorine being maintained at a suitable level.

### Swimming Bath Water.

The bath is filled at the commencement of the season from the town's mains and is kept at a high standard (being that of drinking water) throughout the season. This is made possible by the highly efficient Candy Filter, a pressure filter which is supplemented by chlorination by the "break-point" method. Periodic checks with the Baths Superintendent revealed that the necessary 0.2 parts per million free chlorine was maintained.

## HOUSING.

In an attempt to solve the problem of the housing of the aged and that of the single family unit type, the Council proceeded with the erection of fifty-eight flat dwellings during the year. By erecting flats it was felt that some steps could be taken to provide accommodation for a section of the community that normally does not command high assessment to "points" under the Points scheme, viz., the single women and widows who prefer to live independently in their own home.

In allocating these flats it was not considered expedient to let these flats to young couples with children or to prospective parents, but inevitably there had to be one or two exceptions. Eventually the allocation was made as follows :—

Single Women	...	...	7
Single Men	...	...	2
Young Couples	...	...	10
Aged Couples	...	...	10
Aged Females	...	...	26
Aged Widow and Daughter	...	...	2
Young Couples and Child	...	...	1

In placing the successful applicants in their respective flats great care was taken to try to put the new tenant in a situation which was acceptable to them. This was particularly important in the case of the older tenants, many of whom had to break up homes in which they had spent many years. It was felt that in these cases the speed of rehabilitation would not be retarded by any resentment at having been placed in a situation to which they had objected. To do this, each prospective tenant was interviewed and the advantages, and disadvantages, which might exist owing to their peculiar circumstances or condition were put before them. That this policy has justified itself has been shown in the negligible number of complaints that has been received since the tenants were settled in.

By allocating some younger people the upper flats in each site the Council have prevented the "colonisation" of the older people, and on each site, too, it was found possible to allocate a flat to a



practising nurse. While it is not anticipated that there would be any call on the professional services of the latter, nor on the time of the younger people, it was considered sound policy to do this if only to give the old people a feeling of security that should it be required, help would be near at hand.

With regard to Housing Management, generally the standard maintained by the tenants was satisfactory with the exception of the gardens. Mainly, though not always, standard of premises and gardens go hand in hand and where there is a low standard in the home, then there is usually a neglected garden. This, in my opinion, is the natural result of the apathy of the male partner in the house, as well as that of the wife. I believe that in the ultimate end this is a question of joint responsibility, and if one partner fails to live up to a required standard it is the duty of the other to do what is necessary to make up for any shortcoming of the other. Unfortunately it would appear that this form of apathy is contagious or inter-related and makes it doubly difficult to break down. Out of the small number of such families that we have it was pleasing to note that one family has shown a remarkable improvement. This seemed to coincide with the fact that all the children have reached School age. I am expecting such a result in other cases where it appears that the wife cannot cope with the care of the children and housework.

Private enterprise contributed twelve new houses during the year and the Council have made arrangements for the erection of thirty-six new houses on the Majors Barn Estate and it is hoped that these will be completed by the Autumn of next year.

For some time I had been concerned at the consistent high number of applicants on the Council's list of Applicants and felt that it was time to revise the list with a view to cutting out any of the "dead wood."

To this end letters were sent to every applicant explaining the object of the proposed revision and giving each applicant an opportunity to state whether or not they still wished to be considered. The list was closed in December and upon being rechecked was found to

be reduced from some 450 to 250. While, on the face it would appear gratifying that the housing problem has appeared to be one half of what it was before the letters were sent, I feel it would be unwise to conclude such a simple fact from the figures provided. From a knowledge of some of the cases that withdrew, I believe that their action was prompted either by the amount of rent to be paid or by a feeling of hopelessness that it would be a very long time before they would be allocated a house. There were many instances, too, where applicants from outside the area who were wishful to come into the Borough for one reason or another, had decided to give up the idea.

### **Slum Clearance.**

The main objective aimed at by the Council during the year was the complete demolition of the premises left in Tudor Street and the clearance of the sites. To this end, 50 premises were demolished, and resulted in the whole of the Council's first area being cleared, with the exception of a block of a few houses not completely cleared. There was some criticism at the apparent slowness of the work but this was quite unjustified, in my opinion.

The Council are to be congratulated on being able to arrange for this work to be carried out, at such a low cost. It should be realised however, that this arrangement depended on the disposal of the materials derived from the demolition. Unfortunately the market for this material fell off towards the end of the year, but it is anticipated that proposed engineering projects which are to take place during next year will absorb all the hard-core that can be recovered from demolition works.

In the Castle Ward (No. 1 Area) which comprises the West side of Flannel St., and St. John's Square some demolition work was commenced and the rehousing of the remaining 10 families arranged for the early part of next year. The Town Clerk was successful in completing arrangements for the purchase of all outstanding properties.

During the year the Council declared No. 2 Area comprising the East side of Flannel St., and North side of Castle St., to be a clearance area. This area contains 13 premises, 5 of which are occupied. With the exception of five premises the Town Clerk has completed the purchase and negotiations are under way for the remainder.

## Housing Statistics.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(a)	Total number of Dwelling houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	130
(b)	Number of Inspections made for that purpose	...			340
2. (a)	Number of Dwellings (included under Sub-heading (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations. 1925	...			53
(b)	Inspections made for that purpose	...			57
(c)	Number of Dwellings found to be in a stage so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation ( <i>see</i> slum clearance)	...	...		—
(d)	Number of Dwellings (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...			27
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal Notice action by the local Authority or their officers	...	...	..	20

### Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.				
1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...			Nil
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—				
(a)	By owners	...	...		Nil
(b)	By local Authority in default of Owners	..			Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.				
1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied				9
2.	Number of dwellings in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—				
(a)	By owners	...	...		5
(b)	By local Authority in default of Owners	...			Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
2.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 17 & 23 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	1
2.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(b)	Undertaking accepted that the house will not be used for human habitation	...	...	Nil

(e) Proceedings under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957.

1.	Closing Order is made under Section 17 (1)	...	1
----	--	-----	---

### **Rents Act, 1957.**

During the year ten applications were made for Certificates of Disrepair. Proceedings were completed in five cases and the Council granted certificates. In five other cases procedure under paragraph four of the first schedule of the act was begun and undertaken at the end of the year. Five Certificates of Disrepair were cancelled after necessary work had been completed.

I have two observations to make on the year's working, viz. :- that a large percentage of the applicants had failed to correctly itemize defects and also that the small number of applications indicated that many persons have not taken advantage of the act.

### **Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.**

During the year continuous action was taken in the re-inspection of food premises. Generally the standard maintained was satisfactory. In order to establish the necessity for the wearing of adequate head gear, an experiment was carried out with the co-operation of the staff of a grocery store.

Samples of hair and finger prints were taken on 'Petri' dishes and incubated in the laboratory of a local hospital. The result of this experiment was shown to the staff who were now able to realize that both hair and hands can be the potential carriers of Pathogenic Organisms. The head covers have since been worn in this store.

Four premises were exempted by the Council from providing wash-hand facilities. All outstanding work in connection with premises is in hand with the exception of one store where the dilapidated condition of the structure demands large scale reconstruction.

Inspections are carried out each week in the Market to ensure that the Regulations are complied with. That these inspections are justified can be seen in the increased awareness by the market traders of the need for greater attention to the requirements of Food Hygiene.

### Foodstuffs Condemned, 1958.

#### CANNED FOODS.

Meat	...	113 cans	Fruits	...	215 cans
Fish	...	25 cans	Milk	...	1131 cans
Vegetables	...	139 cans	Cream	...	5 cans
Soups	...	11 cans	Syrup	...	1 can

#### MISCELLANEOUS FOODSTUFFS.

Meat Paste	...	1 jar	Mixed Fruit	...	1 pkt.
Shrimps	...	2 jars	Currants	...	1 pkt.
Pickles	...	4 jars	Raisins	...	1 pkt.
Jam	...	4 jars	Dates	...	8 pkts.
Marmalade	...	2 jars	Biscuits	...	1 pkt.
Sauce	...	1 bot.	Cheese	...	10 lbs.

#### MEAT FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES CONDEMNED AT RETAILERS

##### PREMISES.

Beef	...	967 lbs.	Sausage	...	23 lbs.	Bacon	...	79 lbs.
------	-----	----------	---------	-----	---------	-------	-----	---------

### Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs.

Condemned foodstuffs are collected by Council employees. Cans are punctured and taken to the refuse tip, where they are buried. Other foodstuffs, with the exception of meat, are, if practicable, used for animal feeding. Meat condemned is taken to the Public Slaughterhouse, suitably dyed, and then collected by a recognised firm for manufacture into animal feeding products and other non-edible by-products.



## Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.

There are three producer-retailers resident in the Borough and licenced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Licences granted by the Borough Council are eight authorising the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" (Raw) Milk, six authorising the use of the designation "Pasteurised" and one for the designation "Sterilized."

### Sampling.

During the year 25 samples were submitted for examination. 13 samples were of Tuberculin Tested Raw Milk, 11 of Pasteurised, and 1 of Sterilised Milk.

The Public Health Laboratory reported 3 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Raw) Milk to be below standard. Consequently, appropriate action was taken with the Producers and Distributors, in an attempt to eliminate causes for unsatisfactory results.

The Tuberculin Tested Milks were also subjected to animal inoculation tests which yielded negative results to Tuberculosis.

There is one Pasteurising and Bottling Establishment in the Borough, viz., F. Franklyn, Usk Vale Dairy. These premises are, of course, under the supervision of the County Council.

No Milk Diseases were reported during the year, and the co-operation of the retailers in respect of matters drawn to their attention was such that no legal action was necessary.

### Ice-Cream.

Of the 28 premises registered with this authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, only 2 are used for the manufacture of Ice-Cream.

One uses the Heat Treatment, the other adopting the cold mix method.

All the manufacturers comply with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

In the case of the other retailers, the practice is to purchase wrapped ice-cream from outside firms who mass-produce the product and who provide refrigerated conservers for the use of retailers.



## Rodent Control Work.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts, 1949.

The work of rodent control has continued to be carried out in a satisfactory manner and details are given below.

### DESTRUCTION OF RATS IN SEWERS.

First Annual Maintenance Treatment, June 2nd to June 18th, 1959.

Total number of manholes in foul and connected systems	...	285
Number baited	...	156
Number showing takes of bait	...	40
Number showing complete takes of bait	...	None

Second Annual Treatment, Nov. 17th to Nov. 29th, 1958.

Total number of manholes in foul and connected systems	...	286
Total baited	...	161
Number showing takes of bait	...	22
Number showing complete takes of bait	...	None

The methods adopted was the placing of bait on the "benching" in manholes or on trays fitted into the brickwork and provided with thick ropes to allow rodents to climb on the trays, the poisoned bait being deposited wherever a pre-bait take had been recorded. The results were satisfactory and a lessening of surface infestation is noted after each treatment.

These routine treatments were followed by treatments at the Sewage Disposal Works and Refuse Tips, such treatment being in addition to those regularly carried out.

I am pleased to report that rat infestation in the town has been reduced to almost a negligible number, but in order to keep this so, the work must be continued with enthusiasm and all areas kept under constant surveillance.

### Surface Infestations.

Routine surveys are being maintained and all complaints are immediately investigated.

The following is a summary of the work carried out :

Total number of properties in the area - Dwelling houses	...	2967
All other (including business premises)	...	657

# INSPECTIONS :—

Number of Local Authority properties inspected ...	15
Number of business properties inspected ...	107
Number of private dwellings inspected ...	211
Number of agricultural properties inspected ...	Nil
Total inspections including re-inspections ...	953
Total number founded to be infested :	
By Rats ...	67
By Mice ...	36
Total number of treatments carried out by Rodent Operator ...	103
Number of re-treatments ...	6

## Factories Act, 1937 and 1957.

The following represents the distribution of trades in the Borough :

	Number of Factories	Mechanical Power used	With Power not used
Agricultural Machinery Repairs ...	2	2	0
Bakehouses ...	5	5	0
Bacon Curing ...	1	1	0
Blacksmith ...	2	1	1
Boot and Shoe Repairs ...	6	6	0
Cellulose Spraying ...	4	4	0
Cement Products ...	2	2	0
Egg Grading ...	3	3	0
Electrical Repairs (including Radio) ...	7	1	6
Firewood ...	2	2	0
Florist (Wreaths) ...	3	0	3
Gas Undertaking ...	1	1	0
Ice-Cream ...	2	2	0
Ironworkers and Engineers ...	2	2	0
Leather Products ...	1	1	1
Meat Small Goods ...	9	9	0
Milk Pasteurisation and Boiling ...	1	1	1
Mineral Water ...	1	1	0
Monumental Masonry ...	2	2	0
Motor Repairs ...	9	8	1
Printing ...	2	2	0
Soft Toy Manufacturing ...	1	1	0
Sugar Confectionery ...	2	2	0
Tailoring and Dressmaking ...	3	1	2
Upholstery and French Polishing ...	2	2	0
Welding (Acetylene and Electric) ...	2	2	0
Wool Staplers ...	2	0	2

## OUTWORKERS.

Seven outworkers are listed and they are all concerned with the altering and repairing of wearing apparel.

46 Inspections were carried out, and the following is a statement of cases from which defects were found.

### Number of Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Inspected	Prosecutions Instituted
Want of Cleanliness	0	2	0	2	0
Overcrowding ...	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature ...	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation ...	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective Floor and Drainage ...	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences —					
(a) Insufficient	1	0	0	1	0
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	2	2	0	2	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0	0
Escape in case of fire —					
(a) No certificate	1	1	0	0	0
(b) Inadequate ...	2	2	0	2	0

All Factories to which section 34 applies have been inspected and issued with certificates as to means of escape in case of fire.

### Meat Inspections.

In order that a 100% of meat inspection is carried out, and this as efficiently as possible, the greater part of the time of one inspector is spent at the Slaughterhouse. The object is that not only shall carcases be examined at the time of slaughter, or as near as possible, but that some supervision on the practises can be carried out.

Careful handling of animals, and stunning either with pistol or electroletha, is carried out without fail, and carcases are dressed cleanly and efficiently.

The standard of cleanliness in the slaughterhouse still leaves much to be desired, although some increased care has been taken to improve standards. To be absolutely just it must be recognised that the existing layout does not lend itself to easy cleansing and that it is not now opportune to recommend that the By-laws for Slaughterhouse be made.

However, it is apparent that one can look forward to next year with a feeling of optimism that the work of reconstruction which has been envisaged for some time may be carried out.

It is interesting to note from the records of condemnations that the incidence of tuberculosis in cattle has become reduced to an almost negligible amount. This is particularly evident in the figures relating to cows. In this respect it was common to find several carcasses during the year affected with an acute generalised condition.

It is obvious that this result is derived from the general adoption of a T.T. standard on all farms since the area was declared to be a Tuberculosis Eradication Area by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

### **Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.**

Six persons have been granted licences under the above mentioned Acts authorising them to slaughter or stun animals.

**Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or  
in part.**

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	C'lves	Sheep and L'mbs	Pigs	H'rses
Number killed (if known)	1221	130	117	6308	2749	—
Number inspected	1221	130	117	6308	2749	—
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticeri</b>	—	8	3	12	6	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	181	61	1	148	44	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticeri	14.8	53.1	3.4	2.5	1.8	—
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	2	—	—	57	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.3	1.5	—	—	2.1	—
<b>Cysticercosis</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of Tubercular infection.

Carcase meat	...	777 lbs.
Offal	...	507 lbs.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of disease and conditions other than Tuberculosis.

Carcase meat	...	5880 lbs.
Offal	...	4625 lbs.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned ... 11,789 lbs.

### Public Conveniences.

During the year a further block of Sanitary Conveniences was erected at White Horse Lane, in the western side of the town, providing satisfactory closet and washing accommodation for both males and females, the latter being supervised by an attendant.

The town is now well served by having adequate facilities at both ends of the town and in the centre, a similar convenience to the one recently completed having been constructed three years ago on the east side of the town at the Bus Station.

In arranging for these amenities to be provided the Council have not only filled a great need which they felt was long overdue, they were able also to satisfy the many and vociferous demands and criticisms of those of the public who wished to see these buildings completed.

It is a source of grave disappointment to this Council that these conveniences, built at public expense, for the benefit of the public should be the object of the vandals' irresponsible depredations. It seems a great pity that this minority of the public could not be made aware of the anti-social nature of their activities, and also that the public themselves cannot see fit to take up a less apathetic attitude towards the protection of their property built for their convenience.



## Rainfall, 1958

Rain Gauge ... { Diameter of Funnels, 5 inches.  
 Height of Top { Above Ground 1 ft.  
 Above Sea Level 215 ft.  
 Situation : Bailey Park

Month	Total Depth inches		
January	...	...	4.0
February	...	...	7.0
March	...	...	1.5
April	...	...	0.75
May	...	...	4.05
June	...	...	Not available
July	}	...	...
August		...	6.25
September	...	...	4.5
October	...	...	5.5
November	...	...	2.5
December	...	...	5.0
TOTAL ...			<hr/> 41.05 <hr/>

ROGER J. HOWELLS,  
Public Health Inspector.









